

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Roger Wills, Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

President Bella said we have the Consent Agenda before you the Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for February 11, 2020 and also The Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2020, I would like to thank the Clerks Office for typing the minutes for badum they included all the residents concerns for Merrillville Lakes typed out for us word for word. Approved motion carries.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Councilman White mentioned he has looked at some data for 2018 he is waiting for 2019 to come in so he should have it for the next council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Councilman Minchuk: I sat down with Steve, and we are going to be inviting Stormwater over for future projects and future needs. We will be meeting on February 18th at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Councilwoman Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Councilwoman Uzelac had a meeting yesterday with Kevin from public works and it was regarding an employee and Councilwoman Uzelac said she thinks they came to a good conclusion.

PUBLIC SAFETY: The Public Safety committee will be meeting with the Police Commission in an upcoming advertised executive session and I'll report back to the town.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Councilwoman Uzelac said she spoke with Jan about the parks in the 4th Ward and she said they were getting something together with Matt Lake about Crescent Lake Park. Matt said he had his contractor and they were coming out with their mushmaster to clear out the weeds and seed it with plants and by the time that is done then Storm Water should have their own mushmaster that way we can handle all that on our own. Councilwoman Uzelac wanted to make sure that was being done before spring which it is.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Councilman White said he got an email from Matt Lake regarding a retention pond behind Hickory Ridge Hills Apartment Complex, Matt added they had a preliminary survey done on the Hickory Ridge Hill Apartments property its private property but there's very little space for storage. Christopher Burke did the survey and what we would need is an easement from the owners of that complex. Storm Water drew up an easement agreement to pass it on to the management so they could forward it to the owners of the complex and if they agree storm water can move ahead with a full blown design. It would help 56th and Grant with the flooding.

Councilman White attended the Storm Water meeting on February 4th and the President is Bud Crist, the vice president is Ralph Cinick and the secretary is Barbara Ghost. Other discussions about Bon Aire Lake with strategies about moss and algae and Matt mentioned that talapia eats algae. If we increase the biological control we can hold down the chemical control. Councilman White also reported theres a report due it's called retrack Councilman White developed it. It's about ebolich cans and that's what keeps our \$196,000 grant coming.

Councilman White want to meet with Matt to see what's going on with the compost facility.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS, & CENSUS 2020:

Councilman Pettit said their having their first meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 they invited all the property owners In certain groups

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Councilman Pettit reports we have a site visit tomorrow Pat Reardon and I, we work closely with the Lake County Economic Alliance and Pat is on the board as the Town Manager and this organization periodically will come to the town with site speculation of companies that want to locate in the Town of Merrillville. They usually start with Pat and I, I being the chairman of the committee. We work closely with Carol and Don and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. We do have a site visit tomorrow, and I also do know there are two pending tax abatements funneled through Mr. Reardon and I'll be calling a committee meeting on that probably in February.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Councilman Spann had no reports.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Councilman White had no report.

TOWN IDENTITY & BEAUTIFICATION:

Councilwoman Uzleac had no report

COMMUNITY & RECREATION CENTER:

Councilman Minchuk and Councilman Pettit

Councilman Pettit reported they did have a committee meeting they met with the people from Core and Structure Point and went through a draft power point presentation going out to certain individuals for naming rights on the new Community Center that's being built. We're focusing on 2 versions of the power point, were looking one for an extremely large donor, and a menu of naming rights so it could be a sponsor on the rock climbing wall a sponsor on the fitness room, basketball courts might have logos on them that will help with the operating of the Community Center. We set another meeting for February 6th at 5:00 p.m. As we just heard we approved \$925,000 in claims all of us that has emails from Andrew Farmer gives us weekly updates, they're still working on the utilities with the mild winter we have been having, as well as the retention pond their continuing with the biggest capital improvement project we have ever seen. Councilman Pettit said it's probably going to be like Field of Dreams build it and they will come.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING: (Discussion and Roll Call)

Ordinance (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 20-01 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Madame Clerk Treasurer read the Resolution 20-01 is a resolution to move some funds to accommodate some short falls in other funds, so this resolution moves some money from the general fund into other funds dedicated for our bonds for the debt service payments that had to be paid in January & February. Motion to approve by Councilman Pettit, seconded by Councilman Minchuk for approval of Resolution 20-01 transfer of funds. Madame Clerk-Treasurer mentioned in December when we got a disbursements we paid back all our loans & then the debt service came out in January and February and we had to pay them. It shortens our funds but it's all our money we just have to move it around a little bit.

Madame Clerk-Treasurer can you take the roll call:

Councilman Spann

Councilman Minchuk

Councilman Hardaway

Councilwoman Uzelac

Councilman Pettit

Councilman White

President Bella

7 yes motion carries

BZA ACTIONS:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard Hardaway is going to serve on the NIPRC as Treasurer.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Corporation & Redevelopment Community:

President Bella appointed: Councilman Pettit, Councilman Minchuk, Councilwoman Uzelac.

Nominated by council: Councilman White, Councilman Hardaway

Motion carries

Redevelopment Authority: Councilman Pettit, Councilman Minchuk, Councilwoman Uzelac

Council noimated: Councilman Don Spann

Motion carries

Councilman Minchuk nominated Gene Ward as Police Commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Grace Bullard 8350 Grant Circle Apt. 301D Merrillville, IN I've lived in this apartment for 9 years. We went on TV because there was a fire there last October I'm always on time with my rent, but now I'm being evicted & we all know why because I went on TV. Now they're playing games with me which I don't appreciate. They came into my apartment on the 6th never called me or anything I was taking a shower but they came to deliver my paper work because they're not renewing my lease.

This is my care giver she helps me I'm a veteran, I have disabilities. Her & I came back home on the 19th about 7:55 the doors were open & the lights were on in the kitchen. She did file a police report the officer was very nice. Thank you. She mentioned her care giver had to go on the lease even though they weren't going to renew her lease & made her pay \$45 for that. They have harassed her, ticketed cars. Her care giver said all the people who live there are scared, they shouldn't be but they are. Councilman Pettit asked Shelia if they had a business license because the apartment exchanges money from the tenants. The town attorney suggested contacting HUD.

Graces care giver mentioned when the elevators went out they had to call the Fire Dept. To help the residents come down from the 3rd floor. Councilman Pettit mentioned that if they have a business license the council can bring the apartment in front of the council and tell them they would pull their business license if that's how you're going to operate. President Bella said we will have to have some time to look into it. Madame Clerk-Treasurer mentioned to call the Lake County Health Dept. and have an escort with the Chief of Police to go into the building.

Madame Clerk-Treasurer said contact an attorney because this falls under the elder abuse laws. President Bella asked who of you know Joan White. President Bella and Councilman White are meeting with Joan White on Thursday to see what the town can do to help senior renters in Merrillville. Madame Clerk-Treasurer suggested Fletcher Williams to join the meeting. The meeting is on Thursday at 11:00 here at the Town Hall. A fire started September 27 at approximately 8:00 because of a thunderstorm, the inspectors came out we went as a group and asked when the elevators were going to be back up & we could not get an answer. Councilman White said there's mold on the walls & carpet.

Judy Stamps lives 8350 Grand Circle Apt. 105. Channel 7 was the only one that came out & asked us what we can do. So after we went on the air retaliation began. If their mother & father lived there what would they do? They don't know how to talk to people. I really want to thank the fire dept. & police dept. they were so nice they treated us like family. One tenant Elizabeth Patterson mentioned this company Reliable Recovery Service, phone # 815-774-0880 this is out of Joilet said she has never lived like this before & she shouldn't be living like this now.

Councilman Minchuk mentioned there's a lot of different avenues opening up we have to look at here which way do we go & how we do it. Your wellbeing & health are important right now. I want all of you to call this number tomorrow. Lake County Board of Health 755-3655 they will probably get mad at me but this is important. We will be contacting one of our inspectors also. President Bell said Jody Bella 8779 Madison St. I just want to offer our seniors on aging they work with seniors on a variety of things including housing. President Bella said Jody works for Meals on Wheels and they deliver to your complex Monday through Friday. Thank you all for bringing it to our attention & believe me we will get into it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Storm water Management Board Meeting February 4th at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission Workshop Feb. 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council Meeting Feb. 11th at 6:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. White made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Rick Bella, President

Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer